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(54) **RECHARGEABLE BATTERY INCLUDING TEMPERATURE PROTECTION ELEMENT CONNECTED TO LEAD TAB AND CONNECTION TAB**

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H01M 10/637 (2014.01)
H01M 2/34 (2006.01)
H01M 10/65 (2014.01)

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CPC **H01M 10/5026** (2013.01); **H01M 2/348** (2013.01); **H01M 10/5034** (2013.01); **H01M 2200/10** (2013.01); **H01M 2200/106** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
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USPC 429/62
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A rechargeable battery that includes a pouch installing an electrode assembly, first and second lead tabs connected to the electrode assembly and drawn out to one side of the pouch, a temperature protection element connected to the first tab, and a connection tab connected to the temperature protection element. The temperature protection element is attached to the pouch using a double-sided adhesive tape and covered by an insulation tape.

16 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets

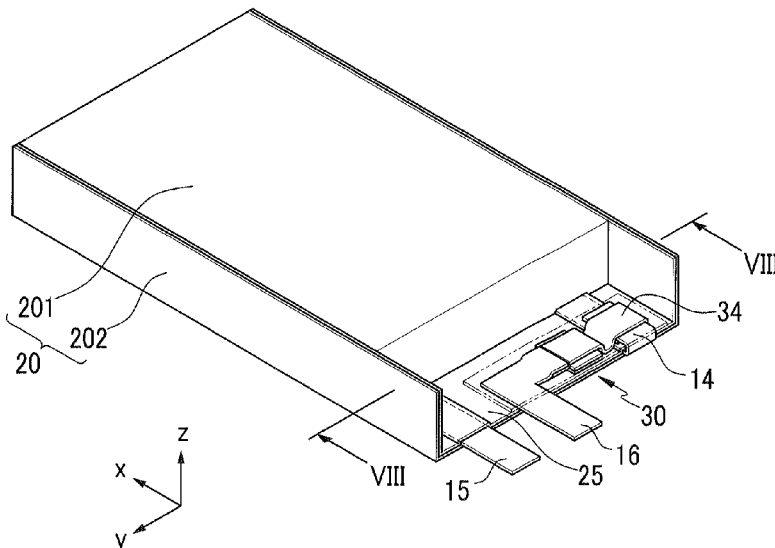


FIG.1

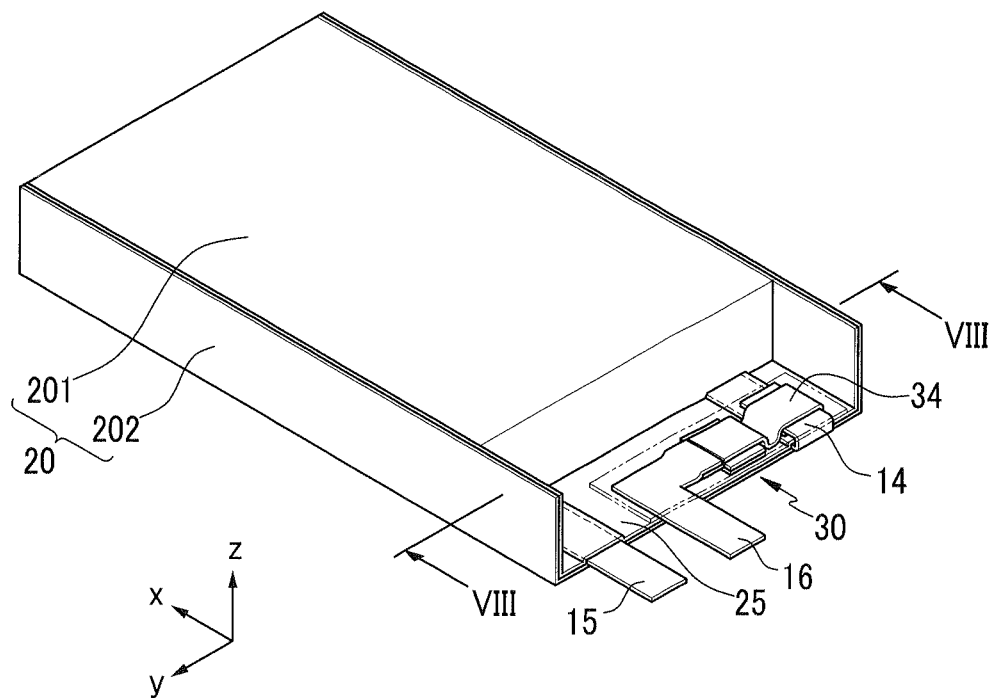


FIG. 2

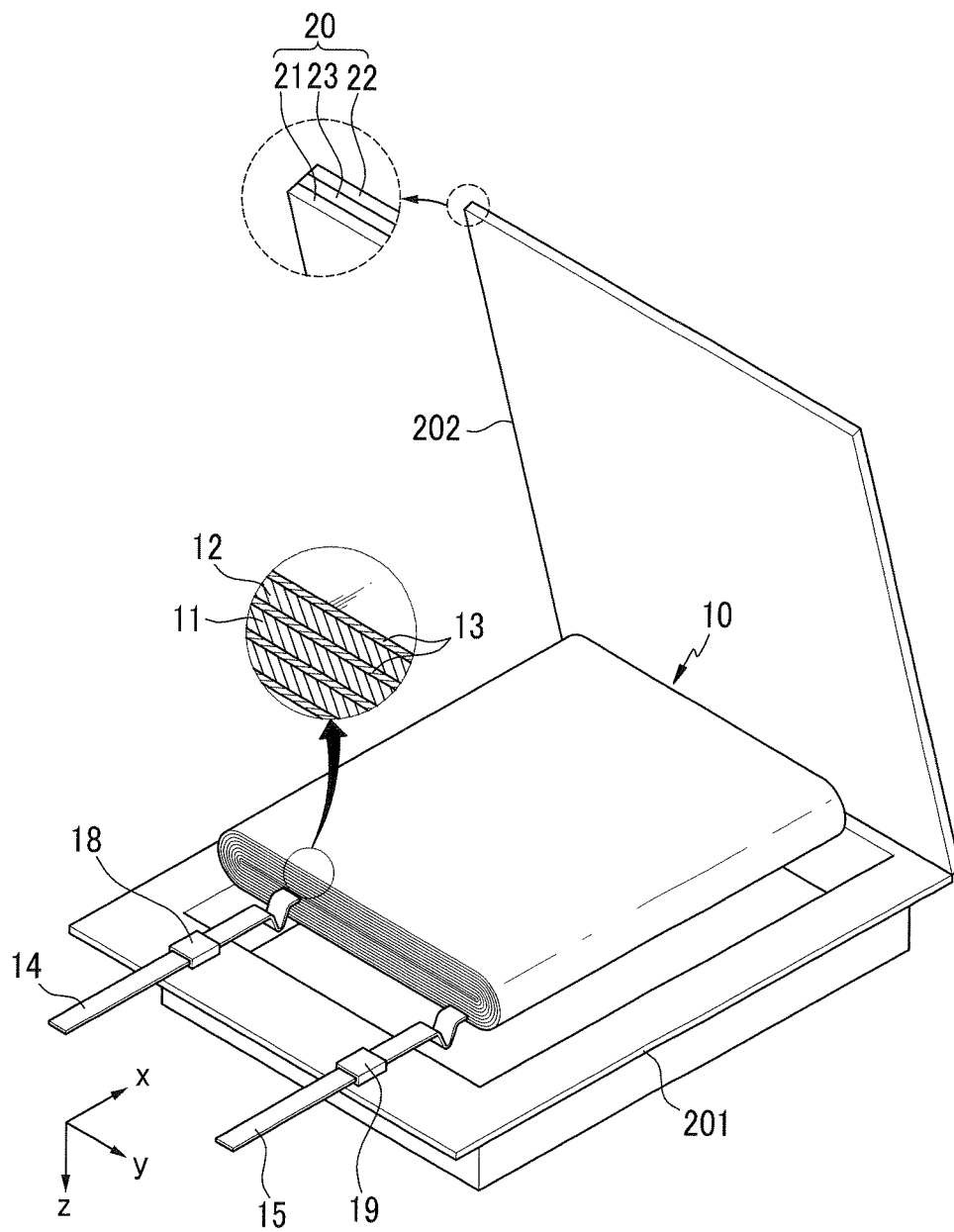


FIG.3

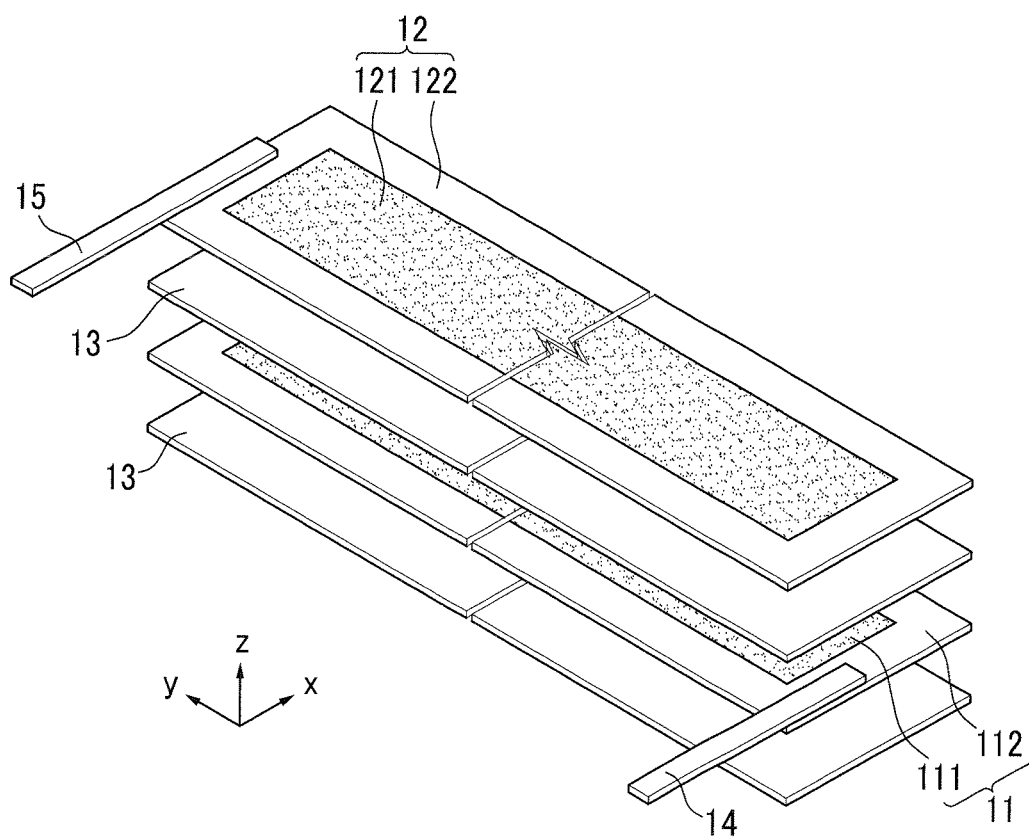


FIG. 4

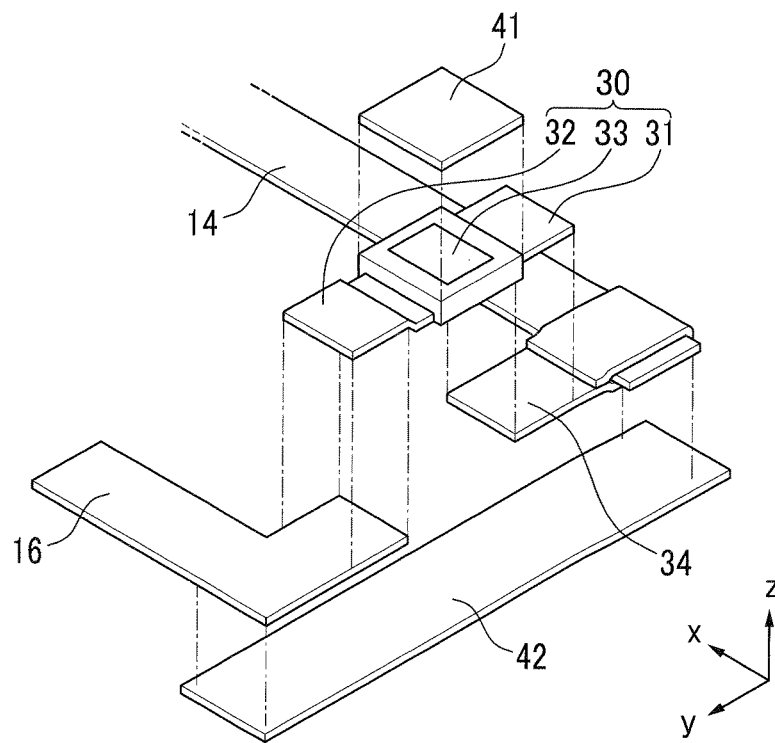


FIG.5

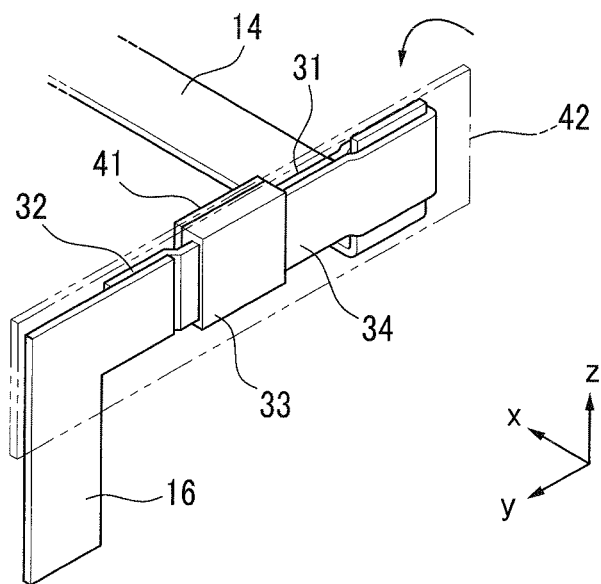


FIG.6

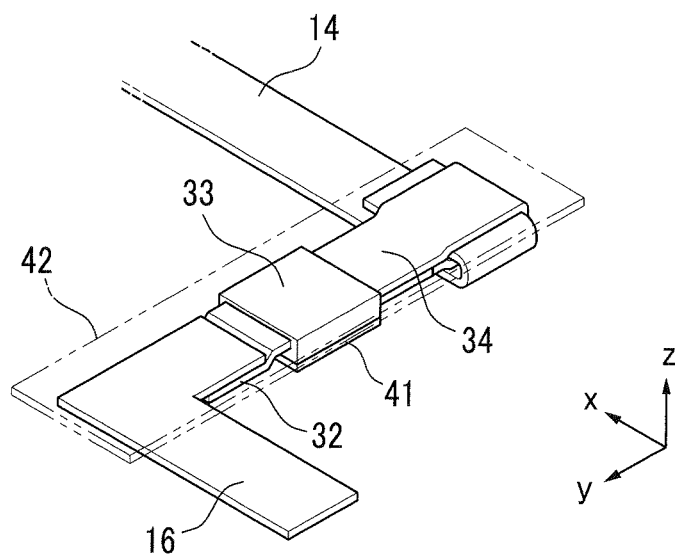


FIG. 7

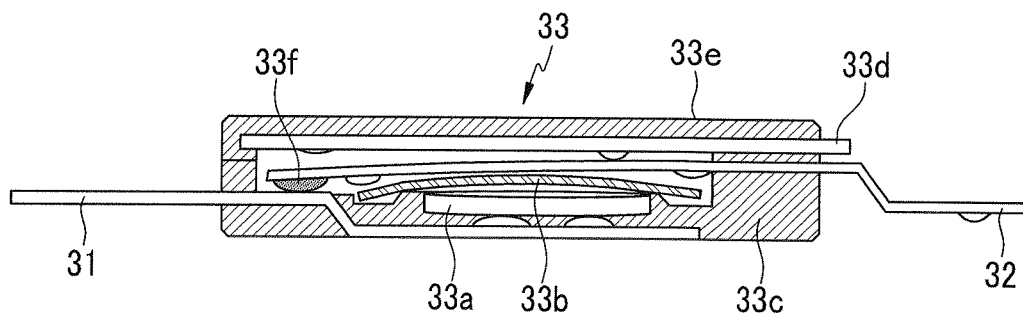
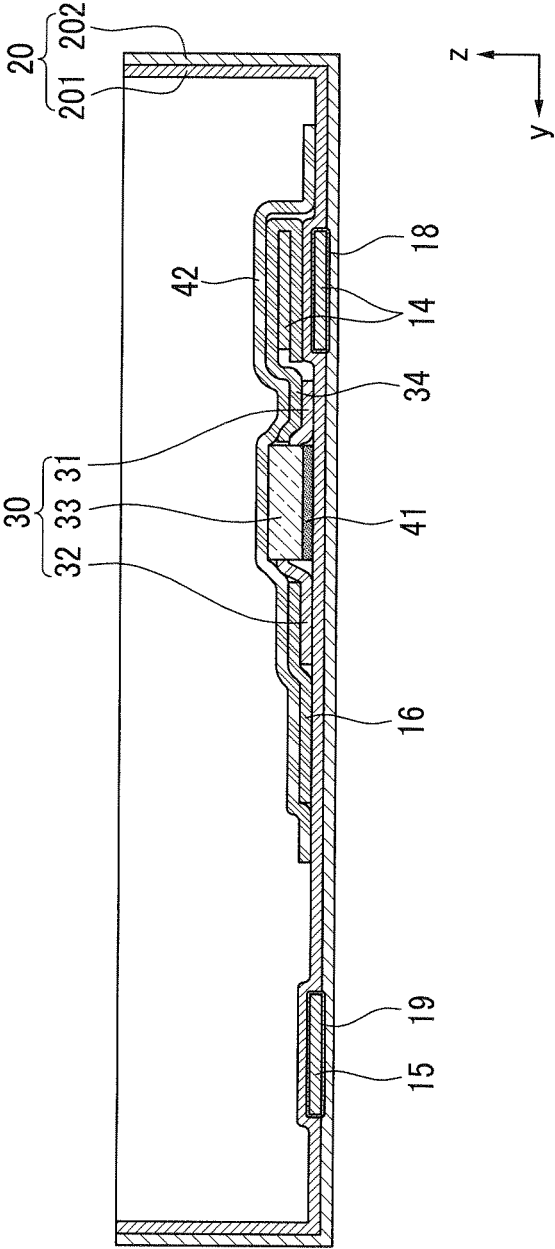


FIG.8



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RECHARGEABLE BATTERY INCLUDING TEMPERATURE PROTECTION ELEMENT CONNECTED TO LEAD TAB AND CONNECTION TAB

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

This application claims priority to and the benefit of Provisional Application No. 61/544,809 filed on 7 Oct. 2011, in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the entire content of which is incorporated herein by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention generally relates to a rechargeable battery.

2. Description of the Related Art

With the development and advancement in mobile devices the demand for and usage of rechargeable batteries has increased as an energy source. In addition, these mobile devices are now down-sized, light, slim with increased high-energy usage. To meet the requirements of these mobile devices, flatly formed rechargeable batteries using a polymer film are often used. A pouch type rechargeable battery may be effectively used to provide for the slimness required of the battery.

The above information disclosed in this Related Art section is only for enhancement of understanding of the background of the invention and therefore it may contain information that does not form the prior art that may be known to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One aspect of the present invention has been made in an effort to provide a pouch type rechargeable battery having improved operation quality by preventing malfunction of a temperature protection element. An exemplary embodiment is a battery having an electrode assembly with a first lead tab extending from a first electrode of the electrode assembly, a second lead tab extending from a second electrode of the electrode assembly, and a separator disposed between the first and second electrode. The battery may include a pouch housing the electrode assembly having a terrace portion, the first lead tab and the second lead tab extending through the terrace portion of the pouch, a portion of the first lead tab in contact with the terrace portion of the pouch; and a temperature protection element connected to the first lead tab and a connection tab, a portion of the temperature protection element attached to the terrace portion of the pouch.

When the electrical resistance in the temperature protection element increases to the point where current flow between the connection tab and first lead portion may stop when a temperature of the pouch exceeds a predetermined value.

The temperature protection element may further include a first connection portion electrically connected to the first lead tab, a portion of the first connection portion in contact with the terrace portion of the pouch; a second connection portion electrically connected to the connection tab; and a transmission portion connected to the first connection portion.

The transmission portion may be affixed to a surface of the terrace portion of the pouch by a double-sided adhesive tape.

The pouch may further include a first exterior material lining an interior of the pouch; and a second exterior material attached to the first exterior material forming an exterior of the pouch.

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Both the first exterior material and the second exterior material may further include: a first sheet composed of a polymer forming an interior of the pouch; a second sheet made of a polyethyleneterephthalate (PET) sheet, a nylon sheet, or a PET-nylon compound sheet forming an exterior of the pouch; and a metal sheet disposed between the first and second sheets.

A portion of the first connection portion may be bent over and wind around an end of the first lead tab.

Further, the first connection portion and the first lead tab may be welded together.

In addition, a portion of the connection tab may be in direct contact with the terrace portion of the pouch.

An insulation tape may cover the temperature protection element, a portion of the first lead tab and a portion of the connection tab.

The first connection portion may be directly attached to the pouch and insulated by the second sheet.

The temperature protection element may be a positive temperature coefficient resistor.

The terrace portion of the pouch may be an extension of the pouch exterior to the electrode assembly.

Further, the first exterior material may receive the electrode assembly.

The second connection portion and the connection tab may be welded together.

The first lead tab may be a positive lead tab and second lead tab may be a negative lead tab.

The positive lead tab may be made of nickel.

The negative lead tab may be made of aluminum.

The metal sheet may be made of aluminum.

The portion of the first lead tab may be in contact with the metal sheet of the first exterior material.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A more complete appreciation of the invention, and many of the attendant advantages thereof, will be readily apparent as the same becomes better understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which like reference symbols indicate the same or similar components, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a pouch type rechargeable battery according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is an exploded perspective view of an electrode assembly and a pouch of the pouch type rechargeable battery according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 3 is an exploded perspective view of the electrode assembly of the pouch type rechargeable battery according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is an exploded perspective view of a positive electrode lead tab and a temperature protection element of the pouch type rechargeable battery according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 5 is a perspective view showing folding state of assembly of a positive electrode lead tab and a temperature protection element of the pouch type rechargeable battery shown in FIG. 4.

FIG. 6 is a perspective view showing folded state of assembly of a positive electrode lead tab and a temperature protection element of the pouch type rechargeable battery shown in FIG. 4.

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view showing inside of a temperature protection element.

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of FIG. 1, taken along the line VIII-VIII.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

The present invention will be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which exemplary embodiments of the invention are shown. As those skilled in the art would realize, the described embodiments may be modified in various different ways, all without departing from the spirit or scope of the present invention. The drawings and description are to be regarded as illustrative in nature and not restrictive. Like reference numerals designate like elements throughout the specification.

Recognizing that sizes and thicknesses of constituent members shown in the accompanying drawings are arbitrarily given for better understanding and ease of description, the present invention is not limited to the illustrated sizes and thicknesses.

In the drawings, the thickness of layers, films, panels, regions, etc., are exaggerated for clarity. Like reference numerals designate like elements throughout the specification. It will be understood that when an element such as a layer, film, region, or substrate is referred to as being “on” another element, it can be directly on the other element or intervening elements may also be present. Alternatively, when an element is referred to as being “directly on” another element, there are no intervening elements present.

In order to clarify the present invention, elements extrinsic to the description are omitted from the details of this description, and like reference numerals refer to like elements throughout the specification.

In several exemplary embodiments, constituent elements having the same configuration are representatively described in a first exemplary embodiment by using the same reference numeral and only constituent elements other than the constituent elements described in the first exemplary embodiment will be described in other embodiments.

In the pouch type rechargeable battery, an electrode assembly is formed by stacking a positive electrode and a negative electrode on both surfaces, putting the polymer film passing through lithium ion therebetween. The lithium ion polymer rechargeable battery installs the electrode assembly in the pouch by disposing the exterior material on both surfaces of the electrode assembly and thermally fusing peripheral portions of the exterior material.

A positive electrode lead tab connected to the positive electrode of the electrode assembly and a negative electrode lead tab connected to the negative electrode are drawn out to one side of the pouch. The positive electrode lead tab and the negative electrode lead tab are electrically connected to a protection circuit module (PCM) that installs protection circuit parts.

The protective circuit module prevents overcharge, over-discharge, overcurrent, and short of the rechargeable battery. In addition, a temperature protection element having a positive temperature coefficient is used between the protective circuit module and the positive electrode lead tab.

When the temperature of the rechargeable battery reaches the predetermined risk value, the temperature protection element, i.e., Thermal-Cut-Off (TCO) electrically isolates the positive terminal from the protective circuit module and when the temperature of the rechargeable battery reaches the setup safety value, the temperature protection element again connects the positive terminal to the protective circuit module.

Therefore, a need exists for the temperature protection element having the excellent temperature detecting performance for the rechargeable battery.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a pouch type rechargeable battery according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention and FIG. 2 is an exploded perspective view of an electrode assembly 10 and a pouch 20 of the pouch type rechargeable battery according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention. Referring to FIG. 1 and FIG. 2, the rechargeable battery according to the exemplary embodiment includes the electrode assembly 10 and the pouch 20 installing the electrode assembly 10.

The electrode assembly 1 may be formed in the shape of a jelly roll by winding a first electrode (for convenience, referred to as a positive electrode) 11 and a second electrode (for convenience, referred to as a negative electrode) 12, interposing a separator 13 therebetween. The separator 13 may be formed of a polymer film that transmits lithium ion.

FIG. 3 is an exploded perspective view of the pouch type electrode assembly 10 of the rechargeable battery according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention. Referring to FIG. 3, the positive electrode 11 includes a coated region 111 where an active material may be coated on a thin film current collector and an uncoated region 112 where a current collector is exposed because of not being coated with the active material. A first lead tab (for convenience, referred to as a positive electrode lead tab) 14 may be connected to the uncoated region 112 of the positive electrode 11.

The negative electrode 12 includes a coated region 121 where an active material that may be different from the active material of the positive electrode 11 may be coated on a thin film current collector and an uncoated region 122 where a current collector may be exposed because of not being coated with the active material. The second lead tab (for convenience, referred to as a negative electrode lead tab) 15 may be connected to the uncoated region 122 of the negative electrode 12 from the opposite side of the first lead tab 14.

The positive electrode lead tab 14 and the negative electrode lead tab 15 are respectively drawn out toward the same side (zy plane of FIG. 3) of the electrode assembly 10. Further, the positive electrode lead tab and the negative electrode lead tab may be respectively disposed at the opposite side (lateral sides in x-axis direction of FIG. 1) of the electrode assembly (not shown).

Referring back to FIG. 2, the pouch 20 may have a multi-layered sheet that surrounds the exterior of the electrode assembly 10. For example, the pouch 20 includes a polymer sheet 21 forming the interior and providing insulation and thermal adhesion functions, a polyethyleneterephthalate (PET) sheet, a nylon sheet, or a PET-nylon compound sheet 22 (hereinafter, referred to as a nylon sheet for convenience of description), and a metal sheet 23 providing mechanical strength. The metal sheet 23 may be disposed between the polymer sheet 21 and the nylon sheet 22, and may be exemplarily formed of an aluminum sheet.

In addition, referring to FIG. 1 and FIG. 2, the pouch 20 includes a first exterior material 201 receiving the electrode assembly 10 and a second exterior material 202 thermally adhered to the first exterior material 201 from the outside of the electrode assembly 10 while covering the electrode assembly 10. The first and second exterior materials 201 and 202 may be the same as the polymer sheet 21, the nylon sheet 22, and the metal sheet 23 in structure.

For example, the first exterior material 201 has a concave structure for receiving the electrode assembly 10 and the

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second exterior material **202** may be formed flat to cover the electrode assembly **10** received in the first exterior material **201**.

Further, the electrode assembly **10** has a cuboid flat structure, and accordingly, the pouch **20** may be formed in the shape of a cuboid flat structure. The rechargeable battery may be formed by surrounding the electrode assembly **10** with the pouch **20**, and therefore the rechargeable battery is entirely formed in the shape of the cuboid flat structure.

The positive electrode lead tab **14** and the negative electrode lead tab **15** are connected to the outside of the thermally adhered pouch **20** so that the electrode assembly **10** may be electrically drawn out to the outside of the pouch **20**. That is, the positive electrode lead tab **14** and the negative electrode lead tab **15** are disposed penetrating the thermally adhered first and second exterior materials **201** and **202** in a terrace portion **25** formed in one side (the yz plane of FIG. 1) of the pouch **20**. In this case, the positive electrode lead tab **14** and the negative electrode lead tab **15** are electrically insulated from the pouch **20** by insulating members **18** and **19**.

The terrace portion **25** may be formed by thermally adhering the first exterior material **201** bent along the electrode assembly **10** at the drawn-out side of the positive electrode lead tab **14** and the negative electrode lead tab **15** to a flat bottom side of the second exterior material **202**.

The rechargeable battery includes a protection circuit module (not shown) formed by installing protection circuit elements in a circuit board for protection from overcharge, over-discharge, overcurrent, and external short. The protective circuit module may be disposed in the terrace portion.

The negative electrode lead tab **15** may be directly connected to the protective circuit module, and the positive electrode lead tab **14** may be connected to the protection circuit module through a temperature protection element **30**. The temperature protection element **30** has a positive temperature coefficient and thus the resistance is infinitely increased at a predetermined temperature.

FIG. 4 is an exploded perspective view of the positive electrode lead tab **14** and the temperature protection element **30** of the pouch type rechargeable battery of the exemplary embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 5 is a perspective view showing folding state of assembly of a positive electrode lead tab and a temperature protection element of the pouch type rechargeable battery shown in FIG. 4. FIG. 6 is a perspective view showing folded state of assembly of a positive electrode lead tab and a temperature protection element of the pouch type rechargeable battery shown in FIG. 4. Referring to FIG. 1, FIG. 4 through FIG. 6, the positive electrode lead tab **14** may be drawn out to the outside of the pouch **20** and then mechanically and electrically connected to the temperature protection element **30**.

For example, the temperature protection element **30** includes a first connection portion **31** connected to the positive electrode lead tab **14**, a transmission portion **33** connected to the first connection portion **31**, and a second connection portion **32** connected to the transmission portion **33**.

An extension portion **34** winds an end of the positive electrode lead tab **14** and then coupled to the first connection portion **31** by welding. The second connection portion **32** and a connection tab **16** are coupled with each other by welding. The transmission portion **33** transmits heat to the inside of the temperature protection element **30** having the positive temperature coefficient. The temperature protection element **30** blocks a current between the positive electrode lead tab **14** and the connection tab **16** when a temperature of the rechargeable battery reaches a predetermined level due to the heat transmission of the transmission portion **33**.

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The positive electrode lead tab **14** may be connected to the temperature protection element **30** through the extension portion **34**, the temperature protection element **30** may be connected to the connection tab **16**, the positive electrode lead tab **14** may be bent such that the first connection portion **31** of the temperature protection element **30** can be further connected to the positive electrode lead tab **14**. Thus, the positive electrode lead tab **14** and the first connection portion **31** form a connection surface as the multi-layer structure.

In this case, the transmission portion **33** of the temperature protection element **30** may be attached to the terrace portion **25** of the pouch **20** by providing a double-sided adhesive tape **41**, and the connection tab **16** protrudes to the outside of the terrace portion **25** in a location that may be closer to the negative electrode lead tab **15** from the positive electrode lead tab **14** along the y-axis direction.

Thus, the heat generated from the electrode assembly **10** and then transmitted from the pouch **20** is transmitted through the transmission portion **33** attached to the terrace portion **25** and then sensed by the temperature protection element **30**. Thus, the temperature protection element **30** can detect an accurate temperature of the rechargeable battery, generated from the electrode assembly **10**.

For convenience, FIG. 1 illustrates that the transmission portion **33** may be attached to the terrace portion **25** by the double-sided adhesive tape **41**. Thus, the connection structure of the second connection portion **32** and the connection tab **16** can be stably maintained even through the second connection portion **32** may be shorter than the first connection portion **31**.

As described, in the outside of the pouch **20**, the temperature protection element **30** may be connected to the positive electrode lead tab **14** and the connection tab **16** may be connected to the temperature protection element **30**. In addition, the connection tab **16** may be electrically connected to the protection circuit module (not shown) together with the negative electrode lead tab **15**.

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view showing inside of the temperature protection element.

As shown in FIG. 7, the temperature protection element may be formed by coupling a base **33c** and a cover **33e**, and includes the first connection portion **31**, transmission portion **33** and the second connection portion **32**. Positive temperature coefficient element (PTC element) **33a** contacts with the first connection portion **31** within the transmission portion **33**, and a bimetal disc **33b** contacts with upper side of the PTC element **33a** within the transmission portion **33**. The second connection portion **32** contacts with the first connection portion **31** at a contact point **33f**, and the second connection portion **32** also contacts with the bimetal disc **33b**. The first connection portion **31** extends inside of the transmission portion **33** and partly exposed toward bottom side.

Hence, the first connection portion **31** and the second connection portion **32** contacts with and electrically coupled to each other. When heat is transferred to the portion of the first connection portion **31** exposed through the bottom of the transmission portion **33**, the PTC element **33a** is heated to reverse the bimetal disc **33b**. The reversed bimetal disc **33b** pushes the second connection portion **32** toward upper side of the transmission portion **33** (precisely into an abutment portion **33d**) such that the first connection portion **31** and the second connection portion **32** separates from each other resulting in electrical cut off.

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of FIG. 1, taken along the line Referring to FIG. 8, the first connection portion **31** of the temperature protection element **30** directly contacts the pouch **20** and thus directly discharges heat of the positive electrode lead tab **14** to the pouch **20**. In further detail, a

portion of the first connection portion 31, disposed between the transmission portion 33 and the positive electrode lead tab 14 directly contacts the pouch 20.

In this case, since the first connection portion 31 may be directly attached to the pouch 20 without an insulation tape, the first connection portion 31 has excellent heat dissipation performance. The first connection portion 31 may be electrically insulated by the nylon sheet 22 in the external side of the pouch 20. In addition, the external side of the pouch 20 may be formed of a conductive material and thus an electric connection structure may be formed between the first connection portion 31 and the pouch 20, the pouch 20 may have positive polarity (not shown).

Thus, the transmission portion 33 is not influenced by heat transmitted from the positive electrode lead tab 14 connected to the first connection portion 31, and detects a temperature depending on the heat directly transmitted from the pouch 20. The temperature protection element 30 may be activated by detecting the temperature of the rechargeable battery using the heat transmitted to the transmission portion 33. Thus, a current can be promptly blocked between the positive electrode lead tab 14 and the connection tab 16 by the activation of the temperature protection element 30.

Meanwhile, an insulation tape 42 wholly covers the temperature protection element 30, that is, covers the first and second connection portions 31 and 32 connected to the transmission portion 33, covers a connection portion of the first connection portion 31, the extension portion 34 and the positive electrode lead tab 14, and may be attached to the terrace portion 25 by covering the connection tab 16 portion of the second connection portion 32.

That is, a metal portion having conductivity in the temperature protection element 30 may be covered by the insulation tape 42, and therefore possibility of short-circuit of the temperature protection element 30 can be eliminated and the temperature protection element 30 can be firmly fixed to the terrace portion 25.

While this invention has been described in connection with what is presently considered to be practical exemplary embodiments, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments, but, on the contrary, is intended to cover various modifications and equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A battery having an electrode assembly with a first lead tab extending from a first electrode of the electrode assembly, a second lead tab extending from a second electrode of the electrode assembly, and a separator disposed between the first and second electrode, the battery comprising:

a pouch housing the electrode assembly having a terrace portion, the first lead tab and the second lead tab extending through the terrace portion of the pouch, a portion of the first lead tab in contact with the terrace portion of the pouch; and

a temperature protection element connected to the first lead tab and a connection tab, a portion of the temperature protection element attached to the terrace portion of the pouch,

wherein the temperature protection element, further comprises:

a first connection portion electrically connected to the first lead tab, a portion of the first connection portion in contact with the terrace portion of the pouch;

a second connection portion electrically connected to the connection tab;

a transmission portion connected to the first connection portion; and

an extension portion is bent over and winds around an end of the first lead tab, the extension portion is in contact with the first connection portion.

2. The battery recited in claim 1, wherein electrical resistance in the temperature protection element increases to the point where current flow between the connection tab and the first lead tab stops when a temperature of the pouch exceeds a predetermined value.

3. The battery recited in claim 1, wherein the transmission portion is affixed to a surface of the terrace portion of the pouch by a double-sided adhesive tape.

4. The battery recited in claim 1, wherein the pouch further comprises:

a first exterior material forming an interior of the pouch; and

a second exterior material attached to the first exterior material forming an exterior of the pouch.

5. The battery recited in claim 4, wherein both the first exterior material and the second exterior material, further comprising:

a first sheet composed of a polymer forming an interior of the pouch;

a second sheet made of a polyethyleneterephthalate (PET) sheet, a nylon sheet, or a PET-nylon compound sheet forming an exterior of the pouch; and

a metal sheet disposed between the first and second sheets.

6. The battery recited in claim 5, wherein the metal sheet is made of aluminum.

7. The battery recited in claim 1, wherein the first connection portion and the extension portion are welded together.

8. The battery recited in claim 1, wherein a portion of the connection tab is in direct contact with the terrace portion of the pouch.

9. The battery recited in claim 1, wherein an insulation tape covers the temperature protection element, a portion of the first lead tab and a portion of the connection tab.

10. The battery recited in claim 1, wherein the first connection portion is directly attached to the pouch and insulated by the second sheet.

11. The battery recited in claim 1, wherein the temperature protection element is a positive temperature coefficient resistor.

12. The battery recited in claim 1, wherein the terrace portion of the pouch is an extension of the pouch exterior to the electrode assembly.

13. The battery recited in claim 1, wherein the second connection portion and the connection tab are welded together.

14. The battery recited in claim 1, wherein the first lead tab is a positive lead tab and the second lead tab is a negative lead tab.

15. The battery recited in claim 14, wherein the positive lead tab is made of nickel.

16. The battery recited in claim 14, wherein the negative lead tab is made of aluminum.